

Wycombe to play again

Sports Mail
Special Report

ALTHOUGH Wycombe Wanderers began strong favourites in their Amateur Cup, third round, clash with St. Albans City, they had to be content with a 1-1 draw. But a crowd of 7,000 enjoyed a game full of action.

Wycombe Wanderers: Maskell; Bradshaw, Beck; Baker, Rundle, Gale; Roystone, Samuels, Bates, Horseman, Merrick.

St. Albans City: Fowler; Legg, Lawrence; Nisbet, Bromley, Wood; Gladwin, Agar, Butterfield, Roberts, Smith.

Referee: J. Jackson (Greenford).

Wycombe began competently, with Roystone prominent in some forceful mid-field constructive play and with one powerful long shot which sped just wide.

Then goalkeeper Fowler pushed out a hot shot from Samuels, who was especially active in the Wycombe front line. At the other end Maskell was brought into action by inside left Roberts, who was well on the mark with two shots.

St. Albans had more of the play once they had settled but the Wycombe halves were quick to break up threatening advances.

Butterfield netted for St. Albans after 15 minutes but the referee ruled that he had fouled goalkeeper Maskell and the goal was disallowed.

In the 23rd minute the visitors' left winger, SMITH, exploited a slip by Roystone and sped through to beat Maskell with a brilliant shot.

Wycombe hit back with tremendous spirit and Horseman, who often troubled the visitors' defence was unlucky with a shot from a difficult angle which went just over the bar.

A series of Wycombe attacks culminated after 33 minutes in a fine equaliser from dangerman HORSEMAN, who seized on a pass from Baker and beat Fowler close in.

Then a shot from Bates was blocked and Baker hit the rebound straight at the keeper.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 1, St. Albans 1.

Swift attack and counter-attack marked the boisterous second half with some fierce tackling and robust exchanges, in one of which St. Albans right-winger Gladwin, was injured. He was able to resume after treatment.

Tempers became frayed and the referee spoke to several players as tension mounted and the crowd clamoured for a decider. But Dour's spoiling tactics in defence still checked repeated attacks in which neither side could claim any advantage.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN.	1
ST. ALBANS	1

HORSEMAN'S SAVER

Wycombe 1 St. Albans 1

THIS dour slogging Amateur Cup third round match ended in defensive stalemate at Wycombe.

When the sides replay at St. Albans next Saturday Wycombe will have to produce more punch in the middle if they are to go into round four.

A 6,000 crowd watched a tearaway battle of swift attack and counter-attack at breakneck pace with neither side able to claim any real advantage.

With powerful support from the halves in their 3-3-4 formation, the Wycombe forwards did slightly more of the attacking but the St. Albans inside men Roberts and Agar initiated repeated counter-attacks and both goals had a succession of narrow escapes.

St. Albans lively leader Butterfield had an early goal disallowed, for a foul on the goalkeeper, before left-winger Smith put the City ahead after 23 minutes.

But Wycombe's danger man Horseman levelled the scores 10 minutes later and some daring saves by the City goalkeeper Fowler kept them still level at half-time.

Both goals came under tremendous pressure in the second half. The fast and furious pace caused frayed tempers and minor injuries but fierce tackling and close backing up in defence foiled all attempts to get the decider.